

***Blumenauer Says Delay in Implementation Will Allow Oregon's Small Businesses Time to Prepare***

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Washington, DC – Today, U.S. Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), will be available to media to comment on the Consumer Product Safety Commission's unanimous vote to issue a one year stay of enforcement for certain testing and certification requirements for manufacturers and importers of regulated products. These requirements are part of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA), and would have gone into effect on February 10, 2009.

"The safety of our children is paramount, that is something everyone supports and why I stand behind the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act. Yet for this law to be effective, the Commission must implement it responsibly and in such manner that we can protect our children while protecting our nations' small businesses who are already in the throes of dealing with the worst economic downturn in decades," said Rep. Blumenauer. "Friday's vote is a step in the right direction toward responding to small businesses' concerns that they didn't have the guidance to comply with this new law. This delay will give both local manufacturers and the Commission the time they need to get it right."

On January 14, 2009, Rep. Blumenauer sent a letter to CPSC Chairwoman Nancy Nord requesting additional guidance for Oregon's small businesses. The letter also voiced their concerns about the new law.

When informed of the Commission's decision, John Koenig, owner of Grasshopper Store on NE Alberta St. in Portland and a founder of the Northwest Childrens Business Alliance said, "Congressman Blumenauer responded immediately to our concerns and went straight to the Consumer Product Safety Commission on behalf of all of the small businesses in his district and across the country. We couldn't have gotten our point across without his help, and we're elated with these results."

To schedule an interview with Rep. Blumenauer, please e-mail Sahar Wali at Sahar.wali@mail.house.gov or call 202-225-4813.